



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Arkansas Teacher of the Year Position Description

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) program provides a great opportunity for an outstanding teacher to lead, serve, learn and grow.

The ATOY will do the following:

- be a highly-qualified teacher in good standing with her/his district/employer.
- serve as an ambassador for all Arkansas teachers and for the ADE, calling positive attention to teaching as an honorable profession and urging students and others to consider teaching as their chosen profession. The ATOY works to elevate the teaching profession, assisting with ADE efforts toward the recruitment and retention of teachers. The ATOY also serves as an ambassador for the ATOY's own district.
- promote the Arkansas Teacher of the Year program statewide.
- inspire and challenge colleagues through professional development sessions and keynote addresses.
- act as a role model for innovation in education.
- meet with ADE management to become familiar with the workings of the agency, learn government protocols, and learn about the current issues and messages of key leaders.
- work in residence with the ADE to 1.) create professional development programs for other teachers; 2.) provide educational technical assistance to students and teachers statewide; 3.) enhance the ATOY program; 4.) enhance the quality of elementary and secondary education in Arkansas; and 5.) represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) competition.
- attend all State Board of Education meetings as a non-voting member representing Arkansas educators. The ATOY should provide the voice, opinion and expertise of teachers as policy issues are being addressed at board meetings.
- work closely with ADE staff in developing and delivering quality professional development for Arkansas educators.
- assist with policy development as requested by the State Board of Education, the commissioner of education and members of the Arkansas General Assembly.
- actively participate and serve on the annual ATOY press conference planning committee. The ATOY will have a public role at the news conference.

- apply for the position of NTOY. If selected, the NTOY serves in an on-loan capacity at the national level, traveling around the world and speaking on behalf of the teaching profession.
- respond to requests for providing professional development sessions in the following areas: pre-service and student teaching; curriculum issues (demonstrate promising practices); and areas of expertise and personal interest. The ATOY should prepare three to five standard presentations for use throughout the year. The ATOY should initiate contact with local school districts, educational associations, parent groups, institutions of higher learning and civic groups in every region of the state to offer assistance and/or participation in conferences and professional development sessions. The ATOY also will conduct speaking engagements and serve on committees and task forces upon request.
- prepare for interactions with the media; serve as a positive spokesperson on radio, television and with the print media.
- help facilitate the Arkansas Exemplary Educators Network (AEEN) to provide statewide collaboration among teachers and the education community. AEEN is a statewide network that consists of veteran and current Teachers of the Year and Milken recipients.
- serve as chairperson of the commissioner's AEEN advisory board, focused on providing support and improved outcomes regarding issues related to classroom teachers.
- submit travel vouchers on a regular basis and notify the ATOY coordinator when ill.
- contact the ATOY coordinator if unable to fulfill any public engagement. This will allow duties to be delegated to the first, second or third runner up.
- provide a written advisory report to the State Board of Education regarding how to better provide teacher professional development and student instruction assistance for Arkansas public school teachers. The report will be presented at the ATOY's last State Board of Education meeting.

Resources for the ATOY

Current and former National Teachers of the Year
Network of Arkansas education-related contacts

Other Recognition Programs

Milken Family Foundation Award
Presidential Awards in Teaching Math and Science
National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program
National Board Certification Program (NBCP)
Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative
TeachArkansas
Troops to Teachers
Pathwise Training